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WELFARE PROPAGANDA

Consumer Goods: Press and radio output on material welfare has generally been high since Stalin's death. During the period under review, this theme is discussed in a variety of contexts ranging from State aid to prolific mothers to the number of cars or shoes available. The theme of Party and Government achievements in providing "material abundance" for the people is alternated with discussion of shortcomings in the local and consumer industries, production of inferior goods, and the disdainful attitude toward the demands of customers. RADYANSKA UKRAINA (12 May) charges that managements of consumer and co-operative industries are indifferent toward expanding output and improving the quality of mass-consumption goods. The Party and the Government, says the paper, are doing their best to supply the necessary machinery, raw material and qualified cadres, and it is therefore up to the cooperative and trade managements to see that the workers' demands are satisfied. That some industrial officials are not "contributing to the growing living standard" of the people is revealed by the paper's assertion that

CPYRGHT

The consumers do not get their full share of goods as set by the state The trading organizations are frequently compelled to return rejected footwear to the factories or to downgrade them.

Ukrainian text:

CPYRGHT

spozhivachi ne oderzhuyut povnistyu tsey kilkosty produktsii, yaka peredbachena derzhavnym planom ... torgovelnym organizatsiam chasto dovodyt'sya povertaty nazad na fabryky bagato zabrakovanogo vzuttya abo perevodyty produktaiu u nyzhs'i sorty.

In the first quarter of this year alone, it claims, the retail trade network was short millions of rubles' worth of overcoats, suits of clothes and shirts because these had not been produced according to plan or had been rejected as unfit for distribution. Many shortcomings in the footwear industry are said to originate in the tanneries, where inefficiency appears to be widespread. A letter from a group of Lvov Oblast shoe manufacturers says that while their supplies of leather are adequate, its quality is inferior and unsuitable for the production of footwear: "If the leather is defective, badly dyed or negligently processed, it is difficult to make good footwear."

IZVESTIA (24 May) reports that many more textile, footwear and other consumer goods enterprises are scheduled to go into operation during the current five-year plan, but this should not lull anyone into overlooking current shortcomings. Many shoe factories are failing to fulfill their present production plans. Furthermore, consumers would have received much more clothing and many more shoes had many cooperative and local industry enterprises not made an inauspicious start this year:

CPYRGHT

In the first quarter of 1953 about 60 enterprises of the cotton goods and wool industry and certain enterprises manufacturing shoes, knit goods and garments failed to cope with their plans assignments.

Russian text:

CPYRGHT

V pervom kvartale 1953 goda okolo 60 predpriatiy khlopchto-bumazhnoy i sherstyanoy promyshlennosti, otdeleie predpriyatiia, vypuskayushchie obuv, trikotazh, shvovnie izdelia, ne vypolnili planovykh zadaniy.

Administrative inefficiency is given as the main reason for the failures quoted above. "Production culture" (kultura proizvodstva--a combination of thoroughness, neatness and efficiency at work), the ultimate aim of Soviet industry, is, according to the paper, still only an expression to light industry officials, who have not yet mastered the

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complicated production technique. This is particularly evident in the knit goods factories where "machines are idle up to 15 percent of the time" (prostoi mashin dokhodyat do 15 protsentov), inferior production is overlooked and "rejects are tolerated" (miryatsya s brakom).

The Kherson Oblast Consumer Industry is dangerously behind in its production plan, says NADNIEPRIANSKA PRAVDA on 22 May. The wasting of raw materials, poor assortments of marketable goods, high production costs and low labor productivity are said to indicate a repetition of the 1952 plan failure. The paper does not elaborate, however, beyond the remark that such consumer services as shoe, garment and furniture repairs are just as inadequate as the supply of new merchandise to the retail trade network.

NADNIEPRIANSKA PRAVDA (15 May) wonders whether some of the leaders of the Kherson Oblast industry "do not notice or do not want to notice" that their enterprises are still employing "old-fashioned and backward" production methods and that the available resources are not being fully utilized. They are producing goods "which the customer runs away from" (vid yakoy vydvertayetsya spozhyvach). A RAIYANSKE POFTLIE review broadcast from Proskurov on 19 May revives the old appeal to consumer industry workers "to value the honor of the factory trademark," declaring that only a sense of responsibility on the part of every worker will help the leaders put an end to production of inferior consumer goods. The paper is appalled by the widespread practice of turning out substandard products without the slightest regard for popular demand.

CPYRGHT

There are factories and plants, manufacturing artels and projects ... a number of enterprises of the Building Materials Ministry where nobody cares for the demands of the consumer. Large quantities of inferior products are still being turned out

The enterprises of the oblast local industry, the Industrial Union, Industrial Council and others "are habitually violating every production rule" stipulated in the plan and instead are concentrating on production for which there is no great demand but which "requires the least effort." The plan, the paper concludes, will not be considered completed unless every phase has been fulfilled in terms of quantity and quality.

The production of "useless" (nepotribny) goods continues despite the numerous protests lodged almost daily by the consumers, says a report from Odessa (23 May) quoting CHERNOMORSKA KOMMUNA. Furthermore, inadequate assortment of goods is coupled with inferior quality of consumer output. The paper criticizes the Textile Industrial Cooperative Union and a number of unnamed manufacturing artels which "do not care" for either the quality or assortment of their products. The officials of these organizations "do not appear anxious to remedy the situation," it claims and instead of trying to improve the quality of consumer goods, "they continue to produce inferior stuff." KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA (23 May) says that the unenviable performance of the Oblast Consumer Goods Union (Obl-potrebs-oyuz) has particularly affected the rural areas where some stores "experience a shortage of such goods ... as salt, groats, household soap and similar items." In Razdolnoye Rayon, for example, the entire assortment on store shelves "consists of bread, eggs and vodka." A similar lack of interest in consumer welfare is said to be displayed by the oblast's local industry which "does not meet the demands of the workers," but no further details are offered.

Asserting that consumer industry and retail trade workers must strive to justify their trust as "servants of the people," RAIYANSKA UKRAINA (19 May) reiterates the complaint about the "soulless attitude" (bezдушne vidnosheniya) toward the needs and demands of the people. Supervision of the retail trade network and of treatment of customers is the duty of the local Soviets, and "they must mercilessly uproot red tape, delays and utter disregard for the people's well-being." The paper adds that some local Soviets, whose duty it is to improve service to the customers, do not seem to realize that "loyal

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service to the people" is the hallmark of good work. Cited in this connection is the chairman of the Mulachev Town Soviet, who "behaves brutally" (brutalno provoditsya) toward visitors complaining about shortcomings, and even "allows amoral deeds" (dopuskaye amoralni uchynki). The deputy chairman of the Pogrebishche Rayon Soviet is reported to be "no better", but in a sense more dangerous to the consumers, being backed in his "unlawful acts" (bezzakonye) by the rayon Party Committee and the Executive Committee of the Soviet. Such people "are no exception" and although they pay lip service to criticism from below, they "actually hate criticism, suppress it and often take revenge on their critics."

Housing Construction work, Stalino reports (12 May), has been inadequate for more than a year. The report says that most oblast papers carry editorials castigating building trusts and other construction organizations for their lopsided operation and unsatisfactory efforts to ease the housing shortage. The poor quality of housing construction has long been the target of frequent press and radio attacks, and though references to sanitation and other facilities are infrequent, they leave no doubt that progress along these lines are even slower than in house building. An allusion to this aspect of housing is also contained in the Stalino report

CPYRGHT

There are frequent cases where new houses or even whole settlements are released for occupancy although the work on improvements and communal services is not finished ... Under no conditions should such houses be put into use.

It is also revealed that many of the available machines "remain idle most of the time," which accounts for the mechanization of plastering operations by only 16 percent, painting by 45 percent and loading and unloading 58 percent. Is there any wonder, the report concludes, that last year and in the first quarter of the current year the housing program "was not being fulfilled in the oblast as a whole?"

House repairs, says IZVESTIA editorially on 21 May, are just as important from the consumers' point of view as new living space, but in this respect, too, progress in the country as a whole is disappointing. The paper particularly condemns the use of the old "planless methods" (kustarschina) and manual labor in remodeling old houses because most essential operations could easily be mechanized. It is also noted that apart from the failure to make better use of the available technical facilities there is a "tendency to delay the repair of houses" until there is little time left to do the job properly, as specified in the plan.

Citing a few examples of extreme negligence, the paper says that the list of delinquent communal housing organizations could be continued ad infinitum. In Smolensk Oblast, new houses are being built according to plan but the restoration of old dwellings has virtually been forgotten. In Demidov town the house-repair plan has been completed by only ten percent while in Dorogobuzh and Yartsevo work has not even begun. Little attention is said to be devoted to this aspect of the consumer's well-being in Alma Ata and other Kazakhstan cities, in Mordva ASSR and Grozny Oblast.

This, the editorial concludes, is not a local but a national problem and as such it comes within the competence of the Union-Republican Ministries of Communal Economy (ministerstva kommunalnogo khozaystva) and under the immediate supervision of the local Soviets. But these ministries have so far not shown any initiative in coping with the problem nor have the Soviets been equal to their task of providing temporary living quarters for people whose houses are undergoing capital repairs. This is an urgent problem crying for immediate solution:

CPYRGHT

The Ministries of Communal Economy of the RSFSR and the other union republics had better hurry up and solve these urgent problems of the development and improvement of the city housing economy.

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Russian text:

CPYRGHT

Ministerstvom kommunalnogo khozaistva RSFSR i drugikh
soyuznykh respublik sleduyet bystreye reshat eti nasushebnie
voprosy razvitiya i uluchsheniya gorodskogo zhilishchnogo khozaistva.

Public Health Service is the subject of PRAVDA editorial on 22 May, which says that the inadequate services at the consumer level are traceable to the very top--the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and the "majority" (bolshinstvo) of medical schools and scientific-research institutions. There is little coordination of the work of these organizations and of practicing physicians, and valuable scientific achievements are not always properly disseminated within the medical professions. The Kazakh SSR Public Health Ministry "is reconciled to serious shortcomings" (miritsya s seryoznymi nedostatkami) in public health services, and medical experts employed by the Ministry do not bother to publicize the latest achievements in medicine among the rank-and-file physicians: "The USSR Academy of Medical Sciences... has not yet become the center of scientific medical thought" (Akademiya meditsinskikh nauk USSR eshche ne v polnoy mere stala tsentrom nauchnoy meditsinskoy mysli).

Civil Rights are discussed in a lengthy IZVESTIA article (23 May) by Deputy USSR Minister of Justice Kudryavtsev. Although this theme has been highly publicized only since Stalin's death, civil rights are treated as having been an object of special Party and government concern since the proclamation of the Soviet Constitution. The Soviet people have gone a long way in improving their State apparatus, Kudryavtsev claims, but it would be futile to say that "violations of the laws, bureaucracy, red tape and other pernicious survivals of the old society" have been weeded out of our legal system. Such violations are "particularly intolerable" (osobennno neterpimy) on the part of the investigatory, prosecuting and court organs "whose duty it is to safeguard Soviet laws" (prizvannykh stoyat na strazhe sovetskikh zakonov) and set an example of their strict observance. He reveals that the Ministry of Justice has carried out a number of "inspections" (revizii) of the activities of the law-enforcement machinery and found them of dubious legality.

CPYRGHT

These inspections have unearthed cases of citizens being illegally held for trial for insignificant misdemeanors in some rayons of Georgian SSR, cases of unlawful fines on kolkhozniks and restrictions on urban residential rights in a number of rayons of the Ukrainian SSR and the incorrect settlement of workers' claims... in certain RSFSR oblasts.

Russian text:

CPYRGHT

reviziyami ustanovleny fakty neobosnovannogo predaniya grazhdan sudu za malo znachitelnye postupki v otdelnykh rayonakh Gruzii - s koy SSR, sluchai nezakonnykh vzyaskaniy s kolkhoznikov i ushchemleniya zhilishchnykh prav gorodskikh zhiteley v ryade rayonov Ukrainsskoy SSR, nepravilnogo razresheniya trudovykh del... v otdelnykh oblastiakh RSFSR.

Kudryavtsev also says that the role and significance of our legal profession... must be enhanced" (sleduyet podnyat rol i znachenie... nashey advokatury). Such references to the Soviet legal system are very rare.

The local Soviets, Kudryavtsev continues, bear final responsibility under the Soviet Constitution for proper law enforcement and legal procedures in their areas, but they too, he implies, often manifest a disdainful attitude toward the individual rights in flagrant violation of the Constitution. In Saratov Oblast alone, for example, more than 60 decisions of the local Soviets were found to have been adopted "in contravention of the law." (v narasheniye zakonov) and are now being protested by the legal profession. One of the aims of the impending "revision" (perestr) of criminal law is to "mitigate criminal

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responsibility" (suyaghit ugolovnaya otvetstvennost) for certain violations and thereby strengthen socialist legality and safeguard the "inalienable rights" (nezyblemie prava) of Soviet citizens.

The rights of the Soviet citizen vis-a-vis authorities are also discussed in an IZVESTIA article (14 May) by Afonov, Secretary of the Kazakh Party Central Committee. Afonov "champions the citizen's cause" by portraying him as a law-abiding man whose civil rights are frequently encroached upon by unscrupulous officials. The Kazakh Public Health Ministry is cited as an example of bureaucracy and corruption incompatible with the "government's solicitude" for its people. Most of the 7,000 complaints about inadequate health service submitted to the Ministry in 1952 were left "uninvestigated" (ne razobreny), and some of them "were lost." Party and government officials, says Afonov, must be familiar with Soviet laws and know how to observe them and enforce them. Attention is therefore called to "legal training" (Yuridicheskaya podgotovka), now required for Party and Soviet secretaries and other officials, in the recently established "large network of short-term courses" (shirokaya set kratkotsrochnykh kursov).

The Friendship-of-Peoples theme is predominate in the meager output on ideological affairs in this review period. An IZVESTIA editorial (13 May, speaks in conventional terms of the great benefits derived by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenia--"the colonial fringes of the Russian Empire" (kolonialnie okrainy Rossiyskoy imperii)--since they joined the happy family of Soviet nations. A RAYANSKA UKRAINA article by the secretary of the Transcarpathian Oblast Party broadcast on 21 May says that the literary output of West Ukrainian writers does not always reflect the right ideological approach to the friendship-of-peoples issue.

CPYRGHT

The role of the Great Russian people in the fraternal family of nations of the USSR is given inadequate publicity and prominence.

(Nedostatnyo rozkryvayetsya i providna rol velykogo rosiyskogo narodu v bratnyy sin'i na odiv SRSR)

Insufficient tribute to the superiority of the Russia, either better in literature, science, culture and so forth forms the subject of a "review of radio transmissions" (oglyad radioperechay) carried by RAYANSKA UKRAINA on 22 May but not broadcast. The Republican radio, it asserts, has not yet become a "tribune of good propaganda experience," and in matters of ideology and friendship of peoples some of the themes are so poorly formulated that "they are apt to disorient the listeners" (shcho mozhut dezorientuvaty slukhashchiv). Among topics said to be omitted too frequently are the "influence of Russian science on the development of Ukrainian science," the historical importance of Russian culture and its beneficial effect on the other Soviet peoples, the enemies' attempts "to inflame all sorts of unhealthy ideological sentiments among the unstable elements of our society" and others. Inadequate radio publicity, the paper claims, is given also to such constitutional privileges as "the right to inherit personal property" (pravo spadkuvannya osobystoy vlasnosti) and the fact that the predominance of the socialist form of ownership does not preclude a certain amount of private ownership (privatne gospodarstvo) so long as it is not based on the exploitation of someone else's labor.

An anonymous commentary broadcast from Yerevan to Armenians abroad on 19 May stressed the "brotherly friendship of the Transcaucasian peoples"--Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia--without any reference to the Great Russians. Such omissions, however, have not been noted in broadcast for the home audience although "the close ties" between the three Transcaucasian nationalities have been noted, frequently. Eulogistic references to the Great Russian people are contained in a TREFNOMORSKA KOMUNA editorial transmitted on 24 May. Eight years ago, it says, when the Second World War was brought to a victorious conclusion, "all the peoples of the great Fatherland spoke with pride about the sons and daughters of the Russian people." During the hard years of war it was the Russian

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people who "were an example of bravery and patience," boundless loyalty to the government, the Party and the country. The paper recalls Stalin's toast to the Great Russians for qualities which, by implication, are not attributable to any of the other Soviet nationalities:

CPYRGHT

The great leader drank a toast to the health of the Russian people not only because they are the leading people but also because they possess a high intelligence and steady character. The Russian people have developed these excellent traits during many centuries.

Ukrainian text:

CPYRGHT

Velykiy vozhd pidnyav toast za zdorovye rosiyskogo narodu ne tilki shcho vin kerivniy narod ale itomu shcho vnyogo ye yasniy rozum i stiykiy kharakte . Tsiyi prekrasnie rukhi rossiyskiy narod vyroblyal protyagom bagatyokh storich.

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